

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A functionalized, structurally modified silica, characterized by functional groups fixed on the surface, the groups being 3-methacryloxypropylsilyl and/or glycidyloxypropylsilyl, with the following physico-chemical characteristic data:

BET surface area	m <sup>2</sup> /g	25 - 380
Primary particle size	nm	6 - 45
Tamped density	g/l	50 - 400
pH		3 - 10
Carbon content	%	0.1 - 15
DBP number	%	<200

wherein said silica is produced pyrogenically by flame hydrolysis of SiCl<sub>4</sub> prior to surface modification.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The functionalized, structurally modified silica of Claim 1 wherein the BET surface area ranges from 90±15 to 380±15.

4. (Original) A process for the preparation of functionalized, structurally modified silica according to Claim 1, comprising spraying silica first with water or dilute acid and then with a surface modification reagent or a mixture of several surface modification reagents in a

mixing vessel, intensively mixing the silica and said reagent, optionally re-mixing the silica for 15 to 30 minutes and then heat-treating at a temperature of 100 to 400°C over a period of 1 to 6 h, to thereby produce a functionalized silica, then destructuring or compacting said silica and optionally re-grinding said silica in a mill.

5. (Original) A coating composition containing the functionalized, structurally modified silica according to Claim 1 in a binder vehicle.

6. (Previously Presented) A functionalized, structurally modified silica, characterized by functional groups fixed on the surface, the groups being 3-methacryloxypropylsilyl and/or glycidyloxypropylsilyl, with the following physico-chemical characteristic data:

BET surface area	m <sup>2</sup> /g	25 - 380
Primary particle size	nm	6 - 45
Tamped density	g/l	50 - 400
pH		3 - 10
Carbon content	%	0.1 - 15
DBP number	%	<200,

said functionalized, structurally modified silica being produced by spraying pyrogenically produced silica first with water or dilute acid and then with at least one of a surface modification reagent selected from the group consisting of 3-methacryloxypropylsilane, glycidyloxypropylsilane and mixtures thereof, in a mixing vessel, intensively mixing the silica and said reagent, optionally re-mixing the silica for 15 to 30 minutes and then heat-treating at a temperature of 100 to 400°C over a period of 1 to 6 h, to thereby produce said functionalized silica.

7. (Previously Presented) The functionalized, structurally modified silica according to Claim 6, which has been additionally subjected to destructuring or compacting and optionally re-grinding said silica in a mill.